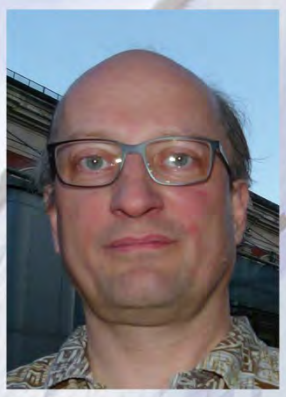
MANCUNICON

Eastercon 2016

GUESTS OF HONOUR

ALIETTE DE BODARD



DAVID L. CLEMENTS

IAN McDONALD

SARAH PINBOROUGH

PROGRESS REPORT 1

The 67th British National SF Convention
25-28 March 2016, Hilton Deansgate,
303 Deansgate, Manchester M3 4LQ

www.mancunicon.org.uk

Words from the Chair

Welcome to Eastercon, welcome to Manchester

If you've been coming to Eastercons for a while, you might know this is only the fourth time we've been to Manchester. It's an amazing city, full of life and adventure, so why only four times in 70 years? In the past, it's been hard a find a hotel of the right size and we've sometimes had to compromise. From the last time in 1998, I have "fond" memories of crossing the busy road between the two convention hotels at 3am, in my t-shirt in a snowstorm, at Easter! This time though we have managed to squeeze the Eastercon into a lovely modern hotel, but I'm afraid only about half of us will be able to stay in that hotel - lots of nice overflow space nearby though.

If you're new, get involved - there will be both formal structure and informal structure to help with this. Hang out in social space, talk to people. Volunteer to get involved; one of the strongest parts of our traditions is that everyone is a fan and our events are purely volunteer run. 23 years ago I was a volunteer at my first convention and it gave me a life I could never have imagined - the people I've met, the places I've been! More t-shirts in the snow, than tears in the rain, but still what a life.

Finally, Eastercons, and the fandom of which they're part, are clearly in transition, again. How do we organise ourselves, what do we actually do, how do we behave towards each other? You'll see signs of that transition all around you, in the programme, in the social space, in conversations online and offline.

Getting to a different future means changing now, and I invite you all to that ever-changing carousel, the Eastercon.

Pat McMurray, Chair chair@mancunicon.org.uk

Hotel

The Hilton Deansgate is right in the middle of Manchester, with a modern and vibrant city right on your doorstep. The hotel was completed in 2007 and is part of Manchester's iconic Beetham Tower, the tallest building in the city, which has its own entry on Wikipedia. The hotel has a lovely leisure club and pool, and a range of bars and restaurants including Cloud 23, with its stunning skyline views.

The hotel is convenient for Manchester's brilliant restaurants, bars, shops, and areas like Chinatown, Canal Street and the Northern Quarter. Manchester is 'European City of Science' for 2016 and the Museum of Science and Industry is close to the venue.

We will have 200 rooms available in the Hilton Deansgate, and we expect to sell them all. A double or twin room will be £115 per night including VAT and breakfast. Single rooms are £105, but we have very few available. There will be overflow available at other local hotels at a range of prices; we will confirm these before opening hotel bookings.

The booking site will be run by Visit Manchester, it will open to those with special access needs first – please contact the hotel liaison on hotel@mancunicon.org.uk to be notified when this is available. Please note that whilst we will be giving people with access needs this early booking opportunity, we are not holding rooms back so you will need to book during this time to guarantee getting into main hotel. We expect this to be available on 26th July but we will notify the list when booking is live.

We expect hotel booking to be available to all on 1st August.

Hotel Booking Link on Mancunicon Webpage

Please note that there are some hotels outside of Visit Manchester's reservation system.

Guests of Honour

Aliette de Bodard

Aliette de Bodard was born in the USA, and grew up in London and Paris where she now lives and works. Her fiction is written in English, and was first published in short form in 2006 with much of it in her Universe of Xuya setting. Her first novel was published in 2010 starting her Aztec mystery trilogy *Obsidian & Blood*. A new series starts with the publication of *The House of Shattered Wings* which will be published by Gollancz in August.

Placing second in the 2006 Writer of the Future Contest she has since won two Nebula awards and a BSFA award with further nominations for those and five Hugo awards.

She tweets as @aliettedb and her website is at aliettedebodard.com which has book and recipes details.

David L. Clements

David L. Clements is an astrophysicist specialising in extragalactic astronomy and observational cosmology. His science fiction has been published in *Nature*, *Analog Science Fiction and Fact* and anthologies including *Conflicts* and *Paradox* from NewCon Press.

He works at Imperial College London where as well as the astrophysics he runs the Science for Fiction presentation series where science fiction authors hear about cutting edge science from practising scientists. His latest science book was *Infrared Astronomy – Seeing the Heat: from William Herschel to the Herschel Space Observatory* from CRC Press which explores the discovery of infrared light and how it has increased our knowledge of the universe.

He blogs at: davecl.wordpress.com and tweets as @davecl42

Guests of Honour

Ian McDonald

Ian McDonald's first science fiction short story was published in 1982, followed by his first novel in 1988. He is particularly known for setting his books on Earth in the developing world. As well as writing fiction he has worked in television as a Network Development Researcher.

A winner of a Locus award, a Philip K. Dick award, a Theodore Sturgeon Memorial award, a John W. Campbell Memorial award, a Hugo award for Best Novelette and multiple BSFA awards, Ian has also been nominated for many others including the Arthur C. Clarke award, a Nebula award and a World Fantasy award. He was born in Manchester, but was raised and still lives in Belfast.

His latest novel, *Luna: New Moon*, the first of his duology will be published in September by Gollancz.

Sarah Pinborough

Sarah Pinborough has been publishing short fiction since 2001 and novels since 2004 as well as writing for film and television. She has been nominated for a World Fantasy award, and won three of her four nominations for British Fantasy awards.

Titan published *Beauty*, the last of her *Tales from the Kingdoms* trilogy in May, and her sixteenth-century mystery novel, *The Cunning Man*, is also out that month from Jo Fletcher Books. Sarah is also working to develop her *Dog-Faced Gods* near future thriller trilogy into a television series.

She tweets as @SarahPinborough, and her website is at sarahpinborough.com. She also writes as Sarah Silverwood.

Programme

Making and renewing friendships is the most important element of Eastercon. One of the simplest ways of doing this is through discussing and participating in an inspiring, educational, and fun programme. We are working on providing this programme. It will be based upon interconnected themes centred on our guests, Manchester, and changing trends and developments in science fiction and fantasy, including fandom itself. Our plan is to tie many of Mancunicon's activities into these themes. A hundred people have already volunteered to be part of programming, but we need more people. If you would like to volunteer please email: programme@mancunicon.org.uk

Dealers

Contact dealers@mancunicon.org.uk to register an interest in obtaining space in the dealers' room.

Artists

To reserve space in the artshow contact artshow@mancunicon.org.uk

T-Shirts

Look out for Mancunicon t-shirts that will be available to purchase via Fabrily and Mancunicon.

Any profits will contribute to making the convention better.

Committee

Role	Person	@mancunicon.org.uk
Chair & Programme	Pat McMurray	chair programme
Logistics	DC	
Treasurer	David Cooper	treasurer
Membership	Steve Lawson	membership
Guest Liaison & Volunteers	Joy Phillips	volunteers
Hotel Liaison	Fiona Scarlett	hotel
Member without Portfolio	Melica Smith	
IT Magic	Tommy Wareing	
The Ambassador	Dave Lally	

Other Emails

Access: access@mancunicon.org.uk
Childcare: childcare@mancunicon.org.uk
Communications: communications@mancunicon.org.uk
Web site: webmaster@mancunicon.org.uk
General enquiries: enquiries@mancunicon.org.uk

Social Media

www.facebook.com/mancunicon

@Mancunicon

Membership

Adult attending	£60
Unwaged: jobseekers / full-time students	£45
Young adult (13-17)	£45
Child (4-12)	£30
Infant (0-3)	FREE

Age is at start of convention, 25th March 2016.

These rates are valid until 30th November 2015, when we will review them.

You can join online, or you can download and print a membership form from www.mancunicon.org.uk/membership and join by post. If doing so, make your cheque payable to 'Mancunicon' and send it, together with your completed form, to:
Mancunicon, 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S2 3HQ.

If you have any questions about your membership, or about joining Mancunicon, contact us at: membership@mancunicon.org.uk and we will do our best to help!

Join in person at:
Nine Worlds (London) August
Titancon (Belfast) September
Octocon (Dublin) October
Fantasycon (Nottingham) October
Novacon (Nottingham) November
and other selected conventions